

MANY PIECES UNITE AS ONE



“We may provide the space, the volunteers and even the client, but our partners make it happen,” said Human Services Manager Lorinda Pearson.

MAKE THE CONNECTION FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

“I just got my furniture from Bridging today and wanted to thank you very much,” wrote a Bloomington resident. Human Services staff are trained to conduct home visits to determine an individual’s needs and refer residents to **Bridging, Inc.**, an agency that provides furniture and household goods to families in transition.

Even unique requests can be accommodated because of Human Services’s relationships with many individuals and agencies. From free tax assistance to support groups to food programs, Human Services partners with at least **100 different agencies** to meet citizens’ needs. In 2005, more than 4,500 callers contacted **Familink** to get connected to valuable resources.

Bloomington Human Services is not just government providing services; it is the catalyst with access to information and resources that helps link the citizen and the provider.



“From McGough’s \$700 million redevelopment to homeowners who obtain a permit for a \$10,000 remodeling project,” Community Development Director Larry Lee said, “property owners partner with the City to renew and revitalize the community.”

GIVE TIME FOR OTHERS

Volunteers, who coordinate programs, answer phones and work with youth and the elderly, build our community. City staff gives support, training and supervision, but these services require the dedication of the many people who graciously offer their precious time to assist others.

The City works with more than 1,500 volunteers, each contributing to the community an average of 100 hours, with an estimated value of \$2.5 million.



“By sharing expertise and skills, we get the best law enforcement practices,” Police Chief John Laux said. “It also helps us keep abreast of emerging trends.”

TRAINING THAT SAVES LIVES

Approximately 600 police and fire personnel regularly use a joint public safety training facility that provides real-life training opportunities. The Southwest Metropolitan Joint Public Safety Training Center, 7525 Braemer Boulevard in Edina, opened in 2003 and is a collaborative effort of the **Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police Department** and the **fire and police departments of Eden Prairie, Edina and Bloomington**. Financing is shared by each of the entities based on the number of career or volunteer personnel.



REVITALIZE THE COMMUNITY

Whether they are remodeling existing properties or constructing new properties, **home owners** and **businesses** are reinvesting in the community. In 2005, the City issued 12,277 building permits with a total valuation of \$163,885,364.

“Our partnership with the Bloomington School District enables us to

offer a variety of high quality programs,” Parks and Recreation’s Assistant Manager Greg Boatman said. “Together we are constantly working to improve what we do and the services we provide.”

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

Neighborhood Watch is comprised of **residents** who meet to discuss concerns and ways to reduce crime. The **Police Department** conducts an annual workshop to train and educate block captains so they can incorporate crime prevention techniques in their neighborhoods. Since 1992, Neighborhood Watch groups have grown from 24 to 326 in 2005.



PRODUCE LOW-COST, QUALITY PROGRAMS

The City has a long-term partnership with the **Bloomington School District** to share resources and save costs. The most apparent collaborations are through Parks and Recreation programs that include Summer Spectrum, one of the most unique programs in the state. Few school districts and cities have the comprehensive collaboration that Bloomington has developed. The needs of families are better met by enhanced services such as child care, transportation and convenient registration.



FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

“The key for Bloomington is joint application and advance financing,” Bloomington Assistant City Manager Clark Arneson said. “Parking stress can be relieved at the 28th Avenue Station sooner, ensuring the continued success of LRT and further redevelopment of the area.”

Cooperation enables infrastructure improvements that help development in the Airport South area to get underway. A first-ever joint proposal, submitted by the **City of Bloomington, Met Council** and **Metro Transit**, was awarded federal funds. A 1,500-space parking structure at the heavily-used 28th Avenue Station

park-and-ride lot and a light-rail station at 34th Avenue will be constructed. Pending final federal approval, funds would be available in 2009. However, the Bloomington Port Authority will advance financing for the parking structure so that it can be constructed in 2007.